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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
INFO RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY GRENADA 0204
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3928

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 002214

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR WHA/CAR
STATE PASS TO HHS FOR STEIGER OGHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA KSCA KHIV DO XL

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR CHEN AND ZAIDI

REF: A. ATLANTA GA 04720

B. ATD# 4316

¶1. Embassy Bridgetown welcomes and grants clearance to Mi Chen and Irum Zaidi, HHS/CDC Epidemiologists, to travel to Roseau, Dominica, from January 20-27, 2007, for the purpose of discussing HIV case surveillance-related issues.

¶2. Per reftel, Embassy understands that no assistance is requested. The travelers will stay at the Fort Young Hotel, tel: 800/754-6835.

¶3. Embassy Bridgetown requests an outbrief be provided to the Political/Economic Section relating to activities while in the region within 10 working days of completion of travel. Please provide the outbrief by telephone, 246/227-4282, or by fax at 246/227-4174.

¶4. Entry requirements: Mission policy is that all USG travelers to the region be in possession of a valid passport. Visas are not required for stays of up to three weeks for tourist/business travel. Visas are not required for stays of up to one month for diplomatic/official travel and your passport must be valid three months beyond intended stay. For stays of longer than listed previously travelers should contact the nearest embassy or consulate. There is a departure tax of 27 xcd (Eastern Caribbean) dollars or 10 U.S. dollars.

¶5. The exchange rate in Dominica is 2.70 xcd (Eastern Caribbean) dollars for one U.S. dollar. U.S. currency, traveler's checks, and credit cards are routinely and widely accepted.

¶6. The following is general information pertaining to security and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito.

Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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